

Application no. 09/639,589
Amdt. dated Mar. 31, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 31, 2003

REMARKS / ARGUMENT

In the office action dated December 31, 2003:

claims 1-3 were allowed;

claims 4-5, 9-11, 16-17, 21-25, 30-31, 37-45, 50-54, 59-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112;

claims 6-8, 12-15, 18-20, 26-29, 32-36, 46-49, 55-58, 62-64 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if written in independent form; and

claim 61 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. patent no. 6,310,878 to Bodnar *et al.*

Claims 1-3, 61, 63-64 from the previous action are currently pending in this application while claims 4-60, 62 have been canceled. The substance of original claim 62 has been incorporated into claim 61. New claims 65-73 have been introduced to explicitly claim that which was implicitly protected previously. The pending claims are now in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any fees for this action, your office is authorized to draw from the firm deposit account number 02-3979. Should you have any questions, or identify any problem, I would appreciate a telephone call so that this matter may be resolved promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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